

LILYDALE TOWN & HERITAGE WALKS

Welcome to Lilydale

The Lilydale district was settled in the 1830s on the banks of Running Creek. Over 150 years later and now known as Olinda Creek, Lilydale has a rich history of arts, agriculture and industry. Lilydale is the gateway to the Yarra Valley and sits against the backdrop of Mt Dandenong.

Nature lovers and families can enjoy a walk around the lake, looking out for Platypi and birdlife. If you love history you can stroll along the shady tree-lined streets where you'll find some of Lilydale's oldest buildings and historic sites. Fitness enthusiasts can cycle or walk along the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail.

LILYDALE STORIES AND HERITAGE TRAIL



Lilydale Stories was developed through a partnership between the Lilydale & District Historical Society and Yarra Ranges Council to illustrate the rich personal stories that have combined to form the town and community of Lilydale.

1 Lilydale Street Trees – A Man before his time

Planted 23 June 1897 in honour of the 50th anniversary of the reign of Queen Victoria. Mature trees consist mainly of Elms, Oaks, Plane, Pepper-corn and Ash with some Eucalyptus species. Planted between 1897–1920 through local community members in celebration of Arbor Day.

2 Lilydale Railway Station – Right Time Wrong Place

The Lilydale line and station was officially opened in December 1882, providing a link to Melbourne. The railway line between Warburton and Lilydale operated between 1901 and 1965 and was the main transport route between the Upper Yarra Valley and Lilydale. The railway carried the region's produce, especially the timber being harvested from the Little Yarra Valley and elsewhere. The Heritage Listed Refreshment rooms are open every Friday afternoon for visitors from 2:30-8:30pm. The Cork Oak tree at the bus and taxi bay is over 120 years old and is the only surviving plant from Lilydale's railway station 19th century garden.

3 Dick Oliver and "The Hub"

Built in 1917 by grocers from Yarra Glen. In 1929 Dick Oliver took over and the business operated on this site with son Ern closing the doors in 1965.

4 Olinda Creek Hotel

The original building was erected by John Hutchinson in 1871 as a residence and hotel. John Hutchinson became the first President of the former Shire of Lilydale created in 1872. The original building is inside the present one.

5 Chop Sticks & Jelly Beans

Poon Kee was one of several Chinese who called Lilydale home. Born in Canton China, he arrived in Lilydale in July 1909 and set up a green grocer's shop on the south side of Main Street next to the Olinda Creek. Poon grew his vegetables behind his shop along John Street and other locations. Whenever the Olinda Creek flooded, which was regularly before the late 1930s, his crops were wiped out.

6 War Memorial & Band Rotunda

Built with money raised by the community, the war memorial was officially opened on May 19, 1922. The rotunda was the centrepiece in Main Street where it remained until 1951. A replica can now be seen at Lilydale Memorial Park, where old bricks from the base were used in the replica.

7 Crown Hotel

Look across to the Crown Hotel built in 1891, which was described as one of the best built and finished structures in Victoria.

8 Wilkinson's Building at 286 Main Street

The first building erected on this site was in 1863. In 1885 it was rebuilt as a two storey building where it operated as a drapery store until 1903. Over the next 96 years it served as a local grocery store, drapers, bank, printers, solicitors and real estate until 1999 when Wilkinson insurance refurbished the building.

9 White Dog Hotel – Duke's Saloon

Lilydale residents have always known Duke's Saloon (formerly the Lilydale Hotel) as The White Dog Hotel. In 1926 when the Silvan Dam was being built, the licensee Mrs Connelly purchased a white bull mastiff 'Duke' to help maintain law and order when the workers went to the hotel. As their English was poor, when they finished work they would say 'See you at the White Dog', meaning the hotel where the white dog was always on patrol.

10 CFA bell

Originally next to the Band Rotunda, the bell was moved to its current place at the front of the Lilydale Fire Station. From its instalment in 1906 the bell was rung to alert shopkeepers and residents to attend to a fire.

11 Johnston's Bootleg Shop

William Johnston settled in Lilydale in 1879 and after two years as a carrier became a bootmaker and opened his business at 335 Main Street. Today, the shop is very much as it was in the early 1880s.

12 Trees on Castella

Photo taken in 1908 of Castella Street looking north from the Main Street. The trees were planted in 1898 from Main Street to Chapel Street and in 1900 continued up to Jones Street.

Castella Street, 1908

Johnston's Bootleg Shop



13 Melba Park and Melba Gates

Melba Park was reserved for open space in the late 1860s and in later years it was re-named in recognition of the contribution made by Dame Nellie Melba who hailed from the region.

14 Mafeking Tree & Croquet Club

Mafeking tree was planted on 13 June 1900 (rear of Athenaeum) to commemorate the relief of the town of Mafeking during the Boer War in South Africa as some young men from the district took part in the Boer War. The Lilydale Croquet Club formed in 1895, is the second oldest in the state and is still operating on its original site in Melba Park.

15 Yarra Ranges Regional Museum – Former Shire Offices

16 White Lace and Skates Athenaeum Theatre and Mechanics Institute
Built in 1888 to be a centre for social activities and concerts, including those given by Dame Nellie Melba. Today it is home to the Athenaeum Theatre Company.

17 Hot Off the Lilydale Express

Built in 1867 the former Lilydale Methodist Church shares a place on what was known in the early days as 'church hill'. The hall next door was for many years the printing works for the local newspaper Lilydale Express.

18 Lilydale Baptist Church at 51 Castella Street

Foundation stone laid on September 6, 1881.

19 The Curious Case of the Swearing Magpie – Court House

Built in 1876 at a cost of 961 pounds, the Court House is the oldest existing and most elaborate early public building in the region, now home of Lilydale & District Historical Society. www.lilydalehistorical.com.au

20 Hot Cocoa and Head Lice

School Number 786. The main brick building was erected in 1876 and was originally a single storey building with a spire.

21 Old St Patrick's School

St Patrick's school commenced as a non denominational school on October 5, 1865. School was held in the church chapel until 1939 when a new school was built on Jones Street where it remained until 1989. The school is now located behind St Patrick's Church.

22 St John's Church

Built in two stages and completed by 1872, St John's was one of the first and most substantial churches built in the region and still in almost original condition.

23 St Patrick's Church and Presbytery

The gothic-style granite church was built in 1871 by David Mitchell (Dame Nellie Melba's father and local pioneer) using local stone and is the oldest existing church in the region.

24 Born in Lightning Storm on Perrin Walk

Melba Park has been an important recreational centre for the Lilydale township since it was created as a result of the first 1867 township plan as a "reserve for Public Gardens". It was a place where people came to picnic, walk, swim, play tennis, lawn bowls or croquet. When Melba Park was joined and Clarke Street closed, the linking footpath was named Perrin Walk after the Perrin family who were early Lilydale settlers. Frederick Perrin ran the town's first post office.

25 Lilydale Tannery & Site of Lilydale Agriculture Show

All that remains of the Tannery is the David Wilkinson Pavilion. The Tannery was one of Lilydale's first industries when the municipality was formed in February 1872. Hides were soaked, cleaned and processed to make leather goods. The Jean Eales Pavilion now stands on part of the old tannery.

26 Cold Creek Carnival Pool

The first baths were built in the late 1890s, water flowed in one branch, exited out the western branch and remained this way until the new Olympic sized pool was built in 1959.

27 The two faces of Running Creek

Running Creek, now the Olinda Creek, provided the means for people to settle in the town, providing water for homes, farms, industry and leisure. The other side of the face was spreading disease and causing devastating floods.

DAME NELLIE MELBA

Australia's First International Opera Star

While travelling the world, Dame Nellie Melba always spoke of Australia and her home town of Lilydale. "To understand me you must understand I am first and foremost an Australian".



Fire bell CFA

In 1918 Dame Nellie was telephoned and told World War I had ended. Although it was the middle of the night, she rushed from Coombe Cottage, Coldstream, to ring the bell so she could tell the residents the war had ended.

Melba Park/Melba Gates & Museum

The large wrought iron gates set on tall stone-clad posts were erected by Dame Nellie Melba in 1927 as a memorial to her father Mr David Mitchell. The wall and pillars are Lilydale limestone and the pillars originally housed a large clock. The letters D and M are part of the wrought iron work design, with one pillar taller than the other.

Cave Hill Quarry David Mitchell Memorial Gates

Established in 1878 by Melba's father, David Mitchell, it was the largest employer in the area. There is said to have been a beautiful limestone cave under the hill, hence the name.

Pillars are made of stone used from the quarry, with the letters David Mitchell Enterprises set into the wrought iron gates. The plaques contain an honour roll of locals who served in the 1939-1945 war.

Athenaeum Theatre

Melba's first concert in Lilydale was held here in 1909. Today you can visit the Melba exhibition at the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum.

Coombe Cottage – just outside Lilydale near Coldstream.

(Mel Ref 281, B6)
Dame Nellie Melba purchased the property on 60 acres in 1909. After extensive renovations it was renamed Coombe Cottage.

Band Rotunda

It was here that in 1902 Dame Nellie Melba and her family were welcomed when they returned to Australia after conquering the world operatic stage. A replica is now at Lilydale Memorial Park.

Railway link to Melbourne

Originally the railway station was to be built at the eastern end of the Lilydale township in Bellvue Street but David Mitchell, who wanted a siding for shipping his limestone to Melbourne, negotiated to have the line built across part of his property and the station built where it is today.

Lilydale Lawn Cemetery

Final resting place of Dame Nellie, who died in Sydney on February 23, 1931, and her father David Mitchell.

www.nelliemelbamuseum.com.au
www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/museum

TOWN TO TRAIL WALK



Girls from Mount Lilydale Mercy College

1 2 Lilydale Station - turn left into main shopping area. To the right you can see the trees planted by the Lilydale Arbor Day Committee to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

2 Continue along shops past Olinda Hotel. Look out for Dick Oliver and "The Hub".

3 At the Olinda Creek foot bridge learn about Poon Kee in Chop Sticks & Jelly Beans.

4 Cross over footbridge and continue along Main street, crossing over Clarke Street past 279 and 281 Main Street (original chemist) and next door is the original site of the post office 1861.

5 11 Cross historic Castella Street and note Arbor day and Peppercorn trees, past a building of significance, Johnston's Bootleg.

6 Continue to Anderson Street, cross at the lights, walking past Californian bungalows on left towards footbridge.

7 Maroondah Hwy Rail Trail foot bridge. Follow path on left to enter the Rail Trail. You can then walk over the steel bridge (takes you to Mt Evelyn). The bridge was designed to reflect the old railway sleepers and the history of the railway line.

8 Mount Lilydale Mercy College was established by the Sisters of Mercy. The first school was conducted in the basement of St Patrick's Presbytery. By the end of 1896, 33 acres of land were acquired and the foundation stone of the convent and boarding school was laid in 1896.



9 At Nelson Road, head left and follow path to corner of Anderson Street. Look for the old railway wooden bridge.

10 Continue along path back to Beresford Road Rail Trail crossing where the Yarra Glen and Healesville railway line once commenced.

11 Cross small wooden bridge and follow path to the Railway Station.

12 The line at Lilydale once continued onto Healesville (opening in 1882), but was truncated to Lilydale in 1980, with the track between Yarra Glen and Healesville now used by the Yarra Valley Tourist Railway. www.yarravalleyrailway.org.au/

For more information

or for guided walks and tours go to www.lilydalehistorical.com.au or call into the Old Lilydale Court House open Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday 11am to 4pm and Friday 1 to 4pm.

LILYDALE ATHENAEUM THEATRE

39-41 Castella Street Lilydale

From 1888 onwards the people of Lilydale have constantly re-invented the Athenaeum to fit in with the community's ever changing needs. As a result it has been a Mechanics' Institute, library, community hall, performance stage, lecture hall, place of worship, meeting room, cinema, indoor sports stadium, roller skating rink, military drill hall, work room, venue for political forums, polling booth, ballroom, concert hall and even a museum.

For the past 35 years, however, it has been the home of one of the best non-professional theatre companies in Victoria, 'The Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre Company'.

www.lilydaleatc.com.au

Melba Park

An attractive park with expanses of lawn, free electric BBQ areas, shelters, playgrounds, a swimming pool, croquet club and big grassy areas for play and picnic facilities.



YARRA RANGES REGIONAL MUSEUM



35-37 Castella Street Lilydale

Yarra Ranges Regional Museum is a new, multi award winning contemporary space that reflects unique aspects of historic and modern life in the Yarra Ranges region. The building is a stunning architectural blend of the historic 1889 Lilydale Shire Offices and an innovative modern extension.

The Museum building includes exhibition and activity spaces, a café, museum shop and is fully accessible.

Opened in May 2011, the 'Connections' gallery tells the many and varied stories that reflect the entire Yarra Ranges region. Together with constantly changing temporary exhibitions on topics as diverse as portrait photography to motorcycling in Yarra Ranges, the museum offers an exciting program of events and activities.

The permanent collection of more than 7,000 items (including the internationally significant Dame Nellie Melba collection) provides an invaluable community resource.

A place for the community to rest, reflect and refresh, Yarra Ranges Regional Museum also gives the visitor to the region a refreshing insight into the history and contemporary reality of this stunningly beautiful area of Victoria.

Opening hours

Every day 10.00am-4.00pm (Closed Public Holidays)
FREE ADMISSION
www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/museum
PH: 03 9294 6313

LILYDALE TO WARBURTON RAIL TRAIL



The Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail is an iconic 39 km recreation trail for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The trail follows the path of the historical railway line through the stunning Yarra Valley commencing at the rear of the Lilydale Railway Station and finishing in Warburton.

Follow the 'Warburton Trail' through vineyards, beautiful mountain scenery, farmlands and forests. Cross the many restored bridges. Meander past remnants of the former station platforms and stop in at the original 1882 railway station, now used for the Upper Yarra Museum.

The Rail Trail's gentle gradients make it ideal for all levels of fitness, including families.

Access to the trail is free for the public, however permits may be required for events.

Visit the Yarra Ranges Council customer service centre to pickup a free map. www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/WarbyRailTrail
PH: 1 300 368 333

Lilydale Lawn Cemetery

The Lilydale Lawn Cemetery dates back to 1861 when land was designated for a Cemetery. The cemetery is full of history. It is the final resting place of Major William Scurry (Gallipoli) and Dame Nellie Melba, two significant people on the world stage. There are pioneer families and well known district people buried there. Their stories are brought to life via a sign posted heritage walk which portrays the lives of 27 individuals. Visitors are invited to stroll through the cemetery grounds, or participate in guided walks offered by the Lilydale & District Historical Society. www.lilydalehistorical.com.au